

BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1911.

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BUCKHURST HILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1911.

During the past twelve months the general health of the District has been good ; apart from the deaths due to Summer Diarrhœa, the remainder produce a Death rate slightly higher than that for last year which was the lowest on record, the Birth rate remains practically the same as that for last year.

Fewer cases of Infectious Disease were notified.

Inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909 were actively carried on.

Details of the work will be found under their various headings.

I. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated on the ridge of land between the valleys of the Rivers Roding and Ching, the greater portion facing the valley of the Roding.

The subsoil is principally stiff clay, with here and there pockets of gravel of varying size, a large bed of gravel in the Roding valley providing a supply for keeping the roads in the District in repair.

The area of the District is about 899 acres (exclusive of areas covered by water and including about 150 acres of Forest land and roads).

The highest point of the District is 271 feet, and the lowest about 45 feet above sea level.

The District is principally a residential one.

II. HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Fewer houses have been erected than in previous years, the supply seemingly exceeding the demand, a considerable number of the older houses being vacant, this being particularly the case in those houses which have basement kitchens.

III. THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

A list of houses that were thought to require inspection was prepared in the early part of the year, of these 90 have been visited, 14 under Section 15 as they were relet after the date of the Act, and 76 under Section 17.

The defects discovered in those inspected under Section 15, were in the majority of cases of a trifling nature, being repairs to floors, ceilings, etc., insufficient ventilation and in two or three cases lack of flushing apparatus to W.C.'s.

One house which was found to be unfit for human habitation was put in habitable repair without a Closing Order being served.

Three houses inspected under Section 17 were found to be in such a state that Closing Orders were made, these have been demolished under the dangerous buildings clause of the Town Improvements Act, 1847.

As a result of the steps taken by the Council under the Housing and Town Planning Act, I am of the opinion the condition of the whole of the cottage property has been vastly improved, the landlords in many cases have thoroughly repaired and done up the property before my visit.

IV. HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

V. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Council's Sewage Works, situate on the Banks of the Roding, take the sewage from the Eastern slope of the hill, that from the Western slope being treated at Woodford Western Works.

The Council's Works consist of two settling tanks, primary, secondary and sprinkler filter beds, a storm overflow bed, and about 14 acres for treating resulting effluent.

Two secondary filter beds have been cleaned out and repacked, and the sprinkler extended to these.

During the year the drains of 15 houses have been relaid and 10 amended.

The Forest Pond on the High Road has been cleaned out round the edges.

The Western Sewage Works have been carried on satisfactorily during the year.

VI. REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse is collected by the Council's men once a week throughout the year. 2,422 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards have been removed.

VII. WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the District obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board, from deep artesian wells at Waltham Abbey and Chingford Mill.

The water is hard, but the supply is constant and adequate.

Notwithstanding the excessively hot summer, the water supply was at no time limited.

VIII. BAKEHOUSES, DAIRIES, AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Bakehouses, Dairies, and Slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and at varying intervals by myself.

The floor of one Bakehouse which was found to be defective was freshly cemented, otherwise the Bakehouses have been kept clean and in a satisfactory manner, and have been whitewashed at regular intervals.

The Milk supply of the District is good. The Cowsheds and Dairies within the District have always been found on inspection to be clean, the Cow-keepers endeavouring to reduce to a minimum the chances of contamination of the milk, by such means as washing the udders, flanks, and hind quarters of the cows.

There are three Slaughterhouses in the District, neither the Sanitary Inspector nor myself have detected any Tuberculous cattle being slaughtered, nor has any carcase, or part of a carcase, been seized on account of Tubercule or other disease.

27 unsound fish were seized during the year in one lot.

IX. NUISANCES.

There were 17 complaints received, 28 nuisances detected without complaint.

No formal notices were served; 46 nuisances were abated including three outstanding at the end of 1910; 2 were receiving attention at the end of the year.

X. OFFENSIVE TRADES AND LODGING HOUSES.

None in district.

XI. SCHOOLS.

The Medical Officer appointed by the Essex County Council Education Committee examined the children in the Public Elementary Schools during the year.

The Schools are supplied with water from the Metropolitan Water Board.

New Latrines and Cloakrooms were in the course of erection at the Infants' School at the end of the year.

XII. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year Chicken Pox was added to the list of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, nine cases were notified, if these be excluded from the list of notifications, the nett number was 13 as compared with 25 in 1910.

The 13 cases were made up of six Diphtheria, five Typhoid and two Erysipelas, no case of Scarlet Fever occurring during the year.

Of the cases of Typhoid three were contracted out of the District, one occurred in a house in which the drains were very defective, and in the remaining case I was unable to trace any cause.

Seven cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the Waltham Joint Hospital, viz.: four Diphtheria and three Typhoid.

No deaths from notifiable Infectious Disease occurred in the District during the year.

An outbreak of Measles began amongst the children attending the Public Elementary Schools about a fortnight before the commencement of the summer holidays, and a second slight outbreak at the end of September.

Notification of Phthisis has not been adopted in the District.

There is no hospital accommodation for cases of Phthisis, either early or advanced.

No notification of Phthisis under the Notification of Phthisis Order 1908 (Poor Law) or the Hospital Order was received.

One death from Phthisis was registered in the District.

Disinfection after cases of Infectious Disease is carried out by means of Formalin and spraying in the case of rooms; clothes, bedding, etc., are disinfected in a steam disinfectant.

The Local Government Board Order making Pulmonary Tuberculosis a notifiable disease comes into force on January 1st, 1912.

XIII. RAINFALL.

The Rainfall for the year was not so great as last year.

Lat. 51 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. N. Long. 0 deg. 2 min. 5 sec. E.

		1910.	1911.
January	...	1'54 inches.	1'40 inches.
February	...	2'60 „	1'52 „
March	...	0'89 „	1'82 „
April	... ..	1'27 „	1'43 „
May	... ..	2'01 „	1'72 „
June	... ..	3'44 „	2'75 „
July	... ..	2'31 „	0'53 „
August	...	2'23 „	0'89 „
September	...	0'83 „	1'40 „
October	...	2'13 „	2'93 „
November	...	3'20 „	3'46 „
December	...	3'31 „	4'68 „
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	25'76 „	24'53 „

XIV. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

From the commencement of 1911 the Registrar General has supplied lists of Births and Deaths properly belonging to the District but occurring outside the District, the list for the last quarter was not to hand when I compiled my list of Births and Deaths for the year.

I have since calculated corrected Births and Deaths Rates.

97 births were registered in the District, and eight were transferred by the Registrar General, making a total of 106, this gives a Birth Rate of 19'8, and a corrected Birth Rate of 21'6.

Total number of deaths registered in the District during 1911 was 51, of these five were transferred to their proper Districts by the Registrar General, and I am at present in communication with him with regard to two others; the total inward transfers were seven making a nett total of 51, and giving a Death Rate equal to 10'4 per 1000.

11 of the deaths were under one year and 13 over the age of 65 years.

One death from Phthisis and three from Cancer occurred, of the remaining number there is nothing special to report.

Only one death took place in the Workhouse of people belonging to Buckhurst Hill.

The deaths from Phthisis, Cancer, and Senile Decay are as follows for the past two years :

	1910.	1911.
Phthisis ...	·37 per 1000	·2 per 1000
Cancer ...	1·1 „	·61 „
Senile Decay ...	·7 „	1·02 „

XV. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Of the eleven deaths registered four occurred under one week and were due to Premature Birth or some Congenital Defects, of the remaining seven, four were due to Enteritis, and one each to Measles, Syphilis, and Marasmus.

Notwithstanding the extremely hot summer the deaths from Enteritis were not excessive.

XVI. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been systematically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and from time to time by myself.

The Register of Factories and Workshops is as follows :—

FACTORIES.	WORKSHOPS.	DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS.
1 Printer.	3 Builders.	4 Cobblers.
1 Brick.	1 Stonemason.	1 Tailor.
	5 Blacksmiths.	
	2 Cycle Makers.	
	1 Harness Maker.	
	2 Upholsterers.	
	1 Coachbuilder.	
BAKEHOUSES.	6 Dressmakers.	
4 Retail.	2 Laundries.	
	2 Shoemakers and Repairers.	
	1 Spice Merchant.	

The population of the District is 4,887.

Mr. Heath, the Sanitary Inspector, has carried out his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner.

A summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, together with Tables I., II., III., and IV., required by the Local Government Board are appended.

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLES OF POPULATION, BIRTH, AND OF
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1911 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.						
							of Non-residents in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	5150	98	98	19'02	47	9'12	5	10	8	81'6	52	10'97
1907	5200	104	104	20'5	40	7'6	6	6	5	48'0	40	7'6
1908	5300	106	106	20'00	84	15'84	9	1	20	188'6	76	14'34
1909	5300	97	97	18'3	64	12'07	8	9	6	61'8	65	12'26
1910	5350	105	105	19'6	41	7'6	6	3	3	28'5	38	7'01
1911	4887	97		19'8	51	10'4	7	4	11	113'4	48	9'8
Corrected to Dec., 1911.	4887	97	106	21'6	51	10'4	7		11	103'7		

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ...	...	899	} At last Census.
Total Population at all ages ...	...	4,887	
Number of Inhabited Houses ...	...	1,090	
Average Number of Persons per House ...	...	4'5	
Lowest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level ...	...	45'00 feet.	
Highest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level ...	...	270 feet.	
Population—Estimated to middle of 1911 ...	...	4,887.	

Subsoil almost entirely clay, with pockets of gravel in higher parts, and also a bed of gravel in the valley covered with alluvial soil.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1911.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria (including membraneous croup)	6	3	2	—	1	—	4
Erysipelas ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	5	—	1	3	—	1	3
Varicella ...	9	2	7	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	22	6	10	3	2	1	7

Isolation Hospital—Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Abbey.

Total available beds, 40. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1911.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and up-wards.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Measles	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant Disease ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Bronchitis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia, all other forms ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Alcoholism	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths excluding Suicide	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Suicides	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Senile Decay	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Heart Disease	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Other Defined Diseases	11	1	—	—	1	—	2	7	—	4
All Causes ...	48	11	1	1	2	1	8	11	13	10

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week.	2-3 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes certified	4	1	5	1	3	1	1	11
„ „ uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enteritis	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	4
Premature Birth	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	4	1	5	1	3	1	1	11

Births in the year	{	Legitimate	94
	{	Illegitimate	3
Deaths in the year	{	Legitimate infants	10
	{	Illegitimate infants	1

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill during
the Year ending December 31st, 1911.

Complaints received	17
Nuisances detected without complaint	28
Nuisances abated	46
Notices served (informal)	17
" " H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17	39
" " " Sec. 15	9
Summons taken out	
Convictions	
Cottages inspected under the H. & T. P. A., Sec. 17 ...76...visits	134
" " " " " Sec. 15 ...14	31
Lodging-houses inspected (none in district)	
Slaughter-houses (three in district)	48
Bakehouses inspected (four in district)	44
Dairies and Milkshops (three in district)	87
Cowsheds (three in district)	68
Workshops and Workplaces (35)	98
Factories (2)	11
Filthy Houses cleansed, Sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	
Houses disinfected	11
Overcrowding abated... ..	2
Houses placed in habitable repair	38
Houses closed... ..	3
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	
Wells cleansed or repaired	
Wells closed	
Cesspools cleansed	
Houses connected with sewers	2
" " " water mains	2
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered; Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	13
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply otherwise amended	19
Drains entirely relaid... ..	15
Drains amended	10
Dustbins supplied	2
Sundry nuisances abated	
Animals improperly kept	1
Samples of water taken for Analysis	
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	
Seizures of unsound fish, etc. (27 fish)	1

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, cottages, dustbins, to workshops, workplaces and factories, bakehouses, dairies and slaughterhouses, has been 913.

The house refuse is collected weekly. There were $2422\frac{3}{4}$ yards collected in 1911.

(Signed) J. T. HEATH, A.R.S.I.,

Inspector of Nuisances.